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PATENT

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December 6, 2001

Ayesha S. Wilks

Date

Ayesha S. Wilks

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Vishnu K. Agarwal

Attorney Docket No.: 501082.06 (98-0616.05)

Serial No. : 09/652,842

Group Art Unit : 2825

Filed : August 31, 2000

Examiner : Belur V. Keshavan

Title : DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

In the Specification:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 17-22 and 24 as follows:

17. (Amended) A method of forming a capacitor, comprising:  
forming a capacitor plate, comprising:  
providing a first conductive layer in a first environment;  
exposing said first conductive layer to a nitrogen free passivation  
gas; and

Cont